

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Specifically, I write in support of COVID Benefit Enhancement – For educators who worked through the pandemic (2019 and 2020), includes a benefit multiplier of 25% increase for those two years for those who retire between 2026-2029; 50% between 2029-2032; 150% between 2032-2035; 200% for retirements after 2035. As an educator who worked, remotely and in person, throughout the most trying time of my career for my students and myself, I feel educators should be granted this increase. While others remained at home, or partial hours for work, including the Department of Education in Hartford, CT., those of us who did our duty, to our communities should be compensated. This work in the classroom, with dividers, masks, cleaning desks between every change of middle school class, with students online and in front of us simultaneously, should be provided just compensation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

